EPI Update for Friday, January 27, 2012 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Norovirus continues in Iowa
- Testing for Norovirus at the State Hygienic Laboratory
- Updated Iowa Antibiotic Resistance Task Force Review
- Flu Season Starts Out Slowly
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Norovirus continues in Iowa

Outbreaks of norovirus illness are continuing to occur across Iowa. Please continue to advise ill patients to stay home until all symptoms resolve and not to cook for other people for at least two days after their symptoms resolve. Frequent hand washing should be encouraged for everyone, especially after using the toilet and changing diapers, and always before eating or preparing food.

For more information about norovirus, visit http://tinyurl.com/7g3gvml.

Testing for Norovirus at the State Hygienic Laboratory

PCR testing for norovirus at the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) is frequently used during outbreaks in the interest of public health. Testing for individual cases is also available from SHL for a charge. Testing may be especially valuable when early identification could halt the spread of disease or aid in treatment decisions.

For more information, visit

www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/vidandpcrcollectioninstructions.pdf

Updated Iowa Antibiotic Resistance Task Force Review

The Iowa Antibiotic Resistance Task Force has updated their "Report of the Iowa Antibiotic Resistance Task Force: A Public Health Guide." The update includes a section on dental, mental/behavioral health facilities, information on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus, Clostridium difficile,* and gram-negative multi-drug resistant organisms. It also includes a discussion on discontinuing isolation precautions and the removal of isolation flags for readmission.

The report is available on the IDPH website at:

<u>www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/antibioticreport.pdf</u>. Note: this document will no longer be printed and mailed to stakeholders.

Flu Season Starts Out Slowly

Statewide and national surveillance shows influenza activity in Iowa and across the country remains low. However, the flu season is only just beginning. Typically, Iowa experiences more activity in late January and February. All three flu strains circulating

this season have been found in lowa; two were identified last week. This means people can get influenza three times this year if they are not vaccinated. All three strains of influenza identified in lowa are covered by the flu vaccine. Please continue to encourage patients to get their influenza vaccination to protect against the disease.

For more information, visit: www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Save-the Date: 36th Annual Iowa Infection Prevention and Control Seminar

- May 1-2, 2012
- Marriott Hotel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Brochures will be available mid-march

Have a healthy and happy week!

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